

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for providing application services in a computing environment having both user-mode processes and privileged-mode processes, the system comprising:

an agent executing in privileged mode and exposing an interface to user-mode processes;

a user-mode component having an interface configured to access[[es]] the agent's exposed interface; and

a configuration component specifying a list of installable code components that are authorized for installation, wherein the agent will only execute privilege mode functions in response to accesses by the user-mode code component when the installable code component is represented on the list;

wherein the user-mode component comprises an application software installation wizard;

wherein specifications are included within the configuration component specifying instructions for installing program components into an operating system;

wherein the agent is capable of creating an instance of the application software installation wizard in accordance with a definition supplied in the configuration component [[.]] ; and

wherein the configuration component includes an initialization file embedded within a cabinet file, the initialization file represented in a plain text format and comprising a plurality of sections each including attribute specifications, the initialization file including an AutoRegister section, an AutoUnregister section, and an allowAdmin section.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the configuration component includes a digital signature.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1 further comprising a user interface implemented within the user-mode component.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the agent behavior is configured by the contents of the configuration component.

7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 2 wherein the agent is capable of authenticating the digital signature.

8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein specifications are included within the configuration component specifying a list of objects that are permitted to be created by the agent; and the agent is responsive to the list of objects to prevent creation of any object unless it is specified on the list of objects.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A method for managing privileges in a computing environment having both user-mode processes and privileged-mode processes, the method comprising:

executing an agent in privileged mode;

exposing an interface of the agent to user-mode processes;

accessing the agent's exposed interface using a user-mode component;

specifying a list of authorized code components in a configuration file;

authenticating that the configuration file comes from a trusted source; and

executing privileged-mode processes specified by the configuration file using the agent, wherein the agent will only execute privileged-mode processes in response to access by the user-mode code component when the configuration file is authenticated as coming from a trusted source;

wherein the user-mode component comprises an application software installation wizard;

wherein specifications are included within the configuration file specifying instructions for installing program components into an operating system;

wherein the agent is capable of creating an instance of the application software installation wizard in accordance with a definition supplied in the configuration file[.] ; and

wherein the configuration file includes an initialization file embedded within a cabinet file, the initialization file represented in a plain text format and comprising a plurality of sections each including attribute specifications, the initialization file including an AutoRegister section, an AutoUnregister section, and an allowAdmin section.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 further comprising specifying a digital signature within the configuration file.

12 (Original) The method of claim 10 further comprising implementing a user interface implemented within the user-mode component.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Original) The method of claim 10 further comprising extending the agent's program behavior according to the contents of the configuration file.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the digital signature is authenticated using the agent.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 wherein a list of objects is specified within the configuration file that are permitted to be created by the agent; wherein, in response to the list of objects, creation of any object is prevented unless it is specified on the list of objects.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the configuration component includes a cabinet (.cab) file.

21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20 wherein the cabinet (.cab) file is compressed.

22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the application software installation wizard is executed utilizing a network browser program.

23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the application software installation wizard includes a scripted user interface for supplying and obtaining user-specific information including a name and licensing information.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the application software installation wizard makes a call to a create object program component including an executable function defined in a dynamic link library (.dll) file, and the create object program component executes in a user-mode for sending a message to a create object interface of the agent, the message including an identification of the configuration component.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim [[25]] 1 wherein the AutoRegister section includes a listing of file names associated with instructions used to register an associated file with the operating system, and the AutoUnregister section includes a listing of file names associated with instructions required to remove the associated file from a registry.